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## Integrating *Petals Of Blood* In Suggestopedia Method Based On Sasando Traditional Music Stimulating Students' English Speaking Skills

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### Abstract

Speaking skills adalah salah satu komponen yang paling esensial dalam pembelajaran bahasa Inggris. Pembelajaran speaking pada mahasiswa non jurusan bahasa Inggris di perguruan tinggi memiliki tantangannya tersendiri. Dalam pengajarannya dibutuhkan usaha-usaha kreatif dari dosen agar kelas speaking dapat diterima oleh mahasiswa secara efektif. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui sejauh mana hasil usaha kreatif dari peneliti sebagai dosen bahasa Inggris untuk menstimulasi speaking skills mahasiswa Pendidikan Guru Sekolah Dasar – Universitas Flores, dengan mengintegrasikan media sastra *Petals of Blood* dalam metode suggestopedia berbasis music tradisional Sasando dalam pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris. Dengan menggunakan classroom action research, penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa pemanfaatan media sastra *Petals of Blood* yang ditulis oleh Ngugi wa Thiong'O dan penggunaannya dalam metode suggestopedia berbasis music tradisional Indonesia dapat menjawab rumusan masalah dalam penelitian ini yakni secara efektif dapat menstimulasi speaking skills mahasiswa Pendidikan Guru Sekolah Dasar Universitas Flores. Hal ini ditunjukkan melalui analisis nilai rata-rata peningkatan speaking skills mahasiswa pada setiap siklus tindakannya. Dengan demikian pengintegrasian media sastra dalam metode suggestopedia berbasis music tradisional sasando dapat direkomendasikan sebagai usaha kreatif yang efektif untuk dilaksanakan dalam menstimulasi speaking skills pembelajar bahasa asing.

Kata Kunci: *Petals of Blood*, Karya Sastra, Suggestopedia, Ketrampilan Berbicara Bahasa Inggris

## Abstract

Speaking skills is one of the most essential components in learning English. Learning speaking to non-English majoring students in higher education has its own challenges. In teaching it requires creative efforts from the lecturer so that the speaking class can be accepted by students effectively. This study aims to determine the extent of the creative efforts of researchers as English lecturers to stimulate the speaking skills of elementary school teacher education students - University of Flores-Ende, by integrating the literary media *Petals of Blood* in the suggestopedia method based on Sasando traditional music in learning English. By using classroom action research, this study concludes that the integrating of the literary media *Petals of Blood* written by Ngugi wa Thiong'O in suggestopedia method based on Sasando traditional music can answer the problem formulation in this study which can effectively stimulate the speaking skills of Elementary School Teacher Education students at the University of Flores-Ende. This can be seen from the increasing in students' speaking scores on the speaking component, which includes accuracy, fluency, understanding and content. Thus, the integration of literary media in the suggestopedia method based on Sasando traditional music can be recommended as an effective creative effort to be carried out in stimulating English speaking skills for the foreign language learner.

Key Words : *Petals of Blood, Literary Work, Suggestopedia, English Speaking Skills*

## INTRODUCTION

The flow of globalization is increasingly unstoppable by anyone who lives in today's world, including students. Students are increasingly challenged to be able to compete intelligently in various fields of life, especially in the world of work in the future. The need for this cannot be avoided, so it is highly expected that universities will respond to this need through the formation of students' skills and knowledge in various fields. One of them is in the field of English. English has been positioned as a vital science that requires everyone to be able to master it, (Reddy, 2016), (Percy, 2017), (Geoffrey, Broughton, Brumfit. C., Flavell. R., Hill. Peter, 2003), (Leong & Ahmadi, 2017), (Nishanthi, 2018), (Cameron, 2001). Because of this urgency, in the higher education curriculum, English is a compulsory subject for all study programs, including the Elementary School Teacher Education study program, University of Flores, Indonesia.

Based on the curriculum of *Indonesian National Qualifications Framework*, English taught in the Elementary School Teacher Education study program has an achievement target of developing students' English skills as prospective elementary school teachers so that they can communicate both orally and written. It is intended that students are able to use it creatively when they become teachers in the future. As a lecturer who teaches this course, researchers feel challenged to teach and educate students in order to achieve the

targeted expectations, but researchers often find many problems in learning. The most prominent problem is the students' English speaking skills. As one of the verbal skills that distinguish humans from other living things, speaking requires students' knowledge in a complex manner. Speaking is "the process of building and sharing meaning through the use of verbal and nonverbal symbols, in a variety of contexts", Chaney in (Zyoud, 2016). Speaking is also interpreted as an interactive process of constructing meaning that involves producing and receiving and processing information, Brown, Burns & Joyce in Zyoud (2016). Thus, speaking is believed to be a very essential skill in language learning, (Hussain, 2017), (Zuhriyah, 2017), (Gudu, 2015), (Parveen, 2016), (Rosalinah & Khilda, 2019), (Juniardi et al., 2020), (Rao, 2019).

For this reason, the important components in learning speaking must be truly understood by students. These components include accuracy, fluency, comprehensibility and content, (Harmer, 2007), (Tahir, 2011). If these components are not understood properly, there will be misunderstanding between a speaker and the interlocutor, (Fitria, 2017), (Hussain, 2017), (Wael et al., 2018). This is what happened to students of Elementary School Teacher Education at the University of Flores. The students' speaking ability is still far from the expected target. This reality is triggered by a fairly low mastery of vocabulary, limited ability of pronunciation and grammar (accuracy, fluency), lack of courage to express ideas orally (comprehensibility, content). While these things are the main components that encourage someone's speaking ability. The above claim is based on pre-research observations and distribution of the students' speaking skill average scores, which tend to be below the standard of completeness.

Therefore, the researcher conducted a self-evaluation and tried to make creative efforts in order to stimulate students' speaking skills by utilizing literary media narrated in English. This literary work is the best-selling novel *Petals of Blood*; one of the works of a Kenyan author; Ngugi wa Thiong'O. This literary work was chosen because it uses a flexible language, with a theme that captivates the imagination and tells of events that are not much different from the current social conditions of Indonesian. In this study, the researcher compared the literary works with the suggestopedia learning method based on the traditional music of East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia, namely Sasando instrumental music.

The use of literature as a strategy to teach basic language skills has become a current trend. Literary works are a very rich source for understanding linguistics and can help students to understand language skills (speaking, reading, listening and writing) and to strengthen understanding of grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation (Keshavarzi, 2012), (Rai, 2012), (Alemi, 2011). There are several main reasons for using literature in language

teaching, including literary works that have authentic and valuable material, cultural enrichment and personal involvement, Collie & Slater in (Rai, 2012), (Noor et al., 2012). Authentic and valuable materials; because literary material is authentic, language learners inevitably face the language desired by native speakers so that they become familiar with different linguistic forms, language functions and communicative meanings. Cultural enrichment; literary works such as novels, dramas, short stories, poetry can enhance aspects of verbal and non-verbal communication and can present a variety of settings in which characters from many social and regional backgrounds can be depicted. Language Enrichment; literary works provide space for learners to improve their cultural and communicative competence and bring them to reach lexical and syntactical. They will become familiar with contextualized language and text content, so they will be more productive when experiencing the richness and diversity of the language they will learn. Personal involvement; when enjoying a literary work with full appreciation, students will feel as if they are one of the characters told in the text. This has a beneficial effect on the overall language learning process.

In choosing an appropriate literary text for teaching a foreign language, a teacher/lecturer should consider several things including the needs of the learners, motivation, interests, cultural background and level of mastery of their language, (Rai, 2012). The work should prioritize aspects of personal involvement and stimulate interest and generate a positive attraction for learning a language. Helton, C.A., J. Asamani & E.D. Thomas in (Rai, 2012) mentions several advantages of novels in the EFL class, including stimulating students' imaginations so that they can develop language skills both oral and written.

The use of literary media in learning will be more fun if it is juxtaposed with the right learning method. The method applied in this study is the suggestopedia method. The suggestopedia method developed by Lozanov is believed to be able to help students in the language learning process, specifically in increasing the quantity and quality of linguistic elements, (Suprpto & Kurniawan, 2020). This method is closely related to the physical environment that can make students feel comfortable in the learning process (Harmer, 2007). (Venkanna & Glorry, 2015) added that the effect of a pleasant environment can make students feel comfortable because they are not under the pressure. So if it is applied in learning speaking combined with the use of literary media, then this method will really help stimulate students' imaginations in living literature so that they can produce linguistic elements that lead to improve speaking skills.

The Suggestopedia method is synonymous with the use of soothing music during learning, the arrangement of an attractive study space, a less stressful classroom atmosphere

and the dynamic personality of the teacher/lecturer. Dynamic personality means a personality that is able to guide students to eliminate boredom and create a pleasant learning environment. There are two major sessions in the application of this method, namely active and passive concerts (Lozanov. G, 2005), (Pali & Rando, 2020). What these two sessions have in common is the use of classical music or instruments in language learning activities. Music with soothing rhythms and harmonization will create a pleasant learning environment. In this study, the musical instrument used is *sasando*, a traditional music from east Indonesia. This music will really help students concentrate in learning English. Related to the use of this method, there have been several previous studies conducted by several researchers, including; research by (Suprpto & Kurniawan, 2020), (Murfita & Novita, 2020), (Pali & Rando, 2020), (Galti, 2017). The studies conducted by applying the suggestopedia method provide a general conclusion that the application of the suggestopedia method applied in learning English gives its own color to increase interest, learning motivation and a sense of comfort in learning English. It has an impact on improving students' English language skills. What distinguishes this research from previous studies is the use of literary media which is integrated in the suggestopedia method with the characteristics of East Nusa Tenggara-Indonesian traditional music and carried out at the university level to improve speaking skills.

Therefore, this study aims to describe the use of the literary work *Petals of Blood* through the suggestopedia method based on East Nusa Tenggara-Indonesian traditional music, as a creative effort in stimulating the speaking skills of students in elementary school teacher education study program. The urgency of this research: 1) for students; to give a different color in the lecturing process through the use of literary media juxtaposed in the suggestopedia method based on traditional music from East Nusa Tenggara so that it can stimulate English speaking skills, and 2) for researchers; to develop themselves in English research by integrating literary works in lecturing through the using of suggestopedia method.

## RESEARCH METHOD

### *Type of the Research*

To answer the research question that has been proposed, the type of research used is classroom action research (CAR). Classroom action research is a problem solving strategy carried out by educators through concrete actions in learning. The purpose of CAR in this study is to stimulate students' speaking skills. This study adapted the Kemmis & MC Taggart CAR research plot which is starting by General Planning (Syllabus), Acting & Observing I,

Reflecting (Changes of Plans) and then continue to acting and observing II, Reflecting and Further Decision, (Hopkins, 2014).

### *General Planning*

This research was conducted at the Elementary School Teacher Education Study Program, University of Flores-Indonesia. The subjects studied were Elementary School Teacher Education students from the 2019/2020 class, totaling 32 people.

The first step is reviewing and analyzing the English curriculum applied in the Elementary School Teacher Education study program, University of Flores to facilitate the implementation of the learning process by utilizing *Petals of Blood* through the suggestopedia method based on traditional music from East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia. In practice, this research focuses on a series of lessons that are divided into several cycles of action. In each cycle of action will be observed, evaluated and reflected on the data or findings related to the use of *Petals of Blood* through the suggestopedia method based on Indonesian traditional music as a creative effort to stimulate students' speaking skills.

### *Data Collection Techniques and Instruments*

Data collection techniques in this study are test and non-test. The test technique is used to determine the students' speaking skills both at the time of pre-action, during the action and after the action. This test will be carried out using questions that will be answered orally. While the non-test technique used in this research is observation and documentation. Observation is done to find out the activities and learning process, while documentation is done to complete the data or findings.

### *Data Analysis Technique*

The data were analyzed using a simple statistical formula. The things that are analyzed are several things related to the proposed research problem. These points are data analysis of improving students' speaking skills, data analysis of observation of lecturers' and students' activities, percentage of individual/student success, percentage of classical success and percentage of increasing speaking skills in each cycle of action.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Speaking skills are believed to be one of the verbal aspects that distinguish humans from other creatures. Therefore, speaking skill is also understood as an interactive activity to convey certain goals and objectives through oral communication so that it can be understood by the intended person. To find out the speaking skills of the subject being studied, the researcher at this stage begins his research by conducting a pre-test. The results of the pre-test are presented in the following frequency table:

Table 1. The Data of Speaking Skills Score in Pre-Test

No	Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	55-59	1	3.12
2	60-64	4	12.5
3	65-69	15	46.8
4	70-74	10	31.2
5	75-79	2	6,25
6	80-84	0	0
7	85-89	0	0
8	90-94	0	0
9	95-100	0	0
Total		32	100

The total score obtained in this pre-test is 2153. From this total score, an Average Score of 67.28% is obtained. The number of students included in the completeness category is 11 people out of a total of 32 students. The frequency table above also shows that the majority of students (62.42%) have not reached the specified minimum score level (70). The level of Classical Completeness in the pre-test was 34.3%. The Min Score in this pre test is 58 while the Max Score in this pre-test is 76. After getting the real data above, the researcher decided to hold a treatment. This treatment begins with the design of the lesson. The intended learning is learning by using literary media of the novel genre (*Petals of Blood*) written by Ngugi wa Thiong'O; a Kenyan-African writer. *Petals of Blood* used as literary media in this research is the one published in Penguin Books (U.S.A) 2005. Overall, this novel consists of 409 pages which are divided into 4 (four) parts. Part One: *Walking*, Part Two: *Toward Bethlehem*, Part Three: *To Be Born* and Part Four: *La Luta Continua!* This novel is completely narrated in English. The method used in this study is the suggestopedia method based on

Sasando instrumental; a traditional music from East Nusa Tenggara-Indonesia. The aim is to stimulate students' speaking skills.

### *Action Implementation in Cycle I*

The implementation of the first cycle was carried out in 3 meetings where each meeting was divided into two shift meetings so that the total shift was 6 shifts. This happened because this research was carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic, so the offline learning process must strictly comply with the health protocol. Each meeting consists of 2 X 50 minutes (100 minutes face to face). Utilization of literary media *Petals of Blood* in this cycle is in Part one with the title *"Walking"* and Part Two entitled *"Toward Bethlehem"*. Part one consists of 6 chapters, but in this cycle, the script used in learning speaking is only limited to chapter one. While in Part Two (*"Toward Bethlehem"*), the selected script is a script entitled *"The Journey"*. Overall, the first cycle was carried out well and efficiently. The activities of researchers as lecturers who carry out this course run in the very good category (88%) and student activities in this stage are 79%. To help students understand the overall content of the novel, the researcher tells a synopsis of *Petals of Blood*. Meanwhile, to help students understand the script in each chapter that is studied in learning, the researcher tells a synopsis of each chapter provides questions to stimulate speaking skills and also provides opportunities for students to do drilling with their partner before presenting it orally. The method applied in this study is the suggestopedia method with the basis of instrumental music used is Sasando traditional music. Active and passive concerts in this method make their own contribution to the students' speaking skills achievement. The results of the test assessment in this cycle can be seen in the following frequency table:

Table 2. The Data of Students' Speaking Skills in Cycle 1

No	Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	55-59	0	0
2	60-64	0	0
3	65-69	8	25
4	70-74	6	18.75
5	75-79	15	46.8
6	80-84	2	6.25
7	85-89	1	3.12
8	90-94	0	0
9	95-100	0	0
Total		32	100

The total score obtained in this cycle was 2349. From the total score, an average score of 73.40% was obtained. The number of students classified in the completeness category was 24 out of 32 students. This shows that the majority of students have reached the level of completeness (74.92%). The Min Score in this cycle is 65 while the Max Score is: 85. The things that are assessed in this speaking class are all components in speaking, including accuracy, fluency, comprehensibility and content. Accuracy includes pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary. Meanwhile, fluency includes the ability to speak easily, fluently, expressively and also the performance of students. Comprehensibility means that the speech conveyed can be understood by the interlocutor and vice versa can understand the speech conveyed by the interlocutor. Contents; in speaking English, it is necessary to pay attention to the content of the conversation. Do not let misunderstanding occur between the speaker and the interlocutor, (Harmer, 2007), (Tahir, 2011), (Anjaniputra, 2013). The test results in this cycle experienced a significant increasing. This increasing can be seen from the average score obtained. This increasing then affects the increasing in the level of classical completeness (75%). However, the results of this test have not been categorized as optimal results because the expected standard of classical completeness is at least 85% of students get a score of 70. Thus, the action cycle must be continued.

#### *Action Implementation in Cycle II*

As in the previous cycle, this cycle is designed in 3 (three) meetings or 6 (six) shifts with the same time duration. The Petals of Blood manuscripts used to stimulate students' Speaking Skills in this cycle are Part Three: To Be Born and Part Four: La Luta Continua! The synopsis of each part of the script is told by the researcher to help students in the process of understanding the content before performing in the form of retelling orally about the contents of the manuscript in each part. In telling this story, an active concert with the beautiful strains of traditional Sasando music which is played throughout the speaking learning activity is applied. Learning is also carried out with the preparation of an attractive classroom, the formulation of seating that forms a semicircle and the preparation of illustrative pictures in a slide show that describes the situation in each part of the story script. Activities to stimulate speaking skills such as drilling, creative tasks and cooperative activities are also carried out seriously at each stage in order to increase the students' level of accuracy, fluency and comprehensibility. In addition to retelling the contents of the script in each part, students were also asked to mention which part they liked the most and which character they idolized. They were also asked to state the reasons for determining the part and character selection in the novel. All these activities are done solely to encourage their

courage in speaking English. The results of observing student activities in this cycle showed a positive response that exceeded the previous cycle (85%). This finally has an impact on the test results at the end of the cycle. The test results in this cycle can be seen in the following frequency table:

*Table 3. The Data of Students' Speaking Skills in Cycle II*

No	Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	55-59	0	0
2	60-64	0	0
3	65-69	2	6.25
4	70-74	1	3.12
5	75-79	3	9.37
6	80-84	4	12.5
7	85-89	14	43.75
8	90-94	8	25.0
9	95-100	0	0
Total		32	100

The total score obtained in the cycle has increased, namely 2673. Thus, the acquisition of the Average Score from the total score has also increased, namely 83.53%. Meanwhile, the number of students classified in the completeness category is 30 students out of a total of 32 students. The level of classical completeness obtained in this cycle is 93.75%. Min Score obtained = 68 while the Max Score obtained = 93. The researcher's activities in utilizing the Petals of Blood media which were applied in the suggestopedia method based on Indonesian traditional music for students in Elementary School Teacher Education study program went well in each cycle. The results of observing student activities in each cycle of action increased from good category to very good category (85%) while the implementation of lecturer activities in learning reached (91%).

*Increasing Percentages in Every Action Cycles*

The impact of increasing learning activities in each cycle of action has a positive effect on increasing student speaking skills test results at the end of each action. The increasing can be seen in the following graph:

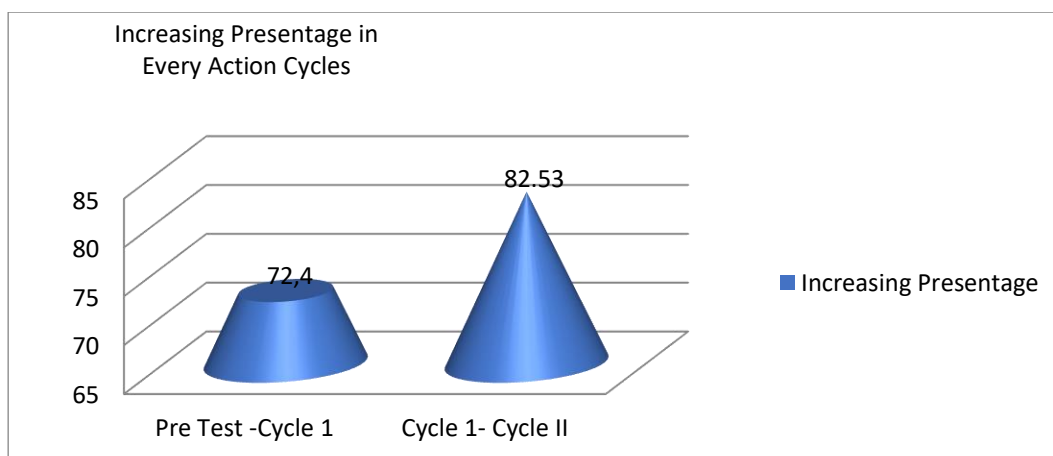


Chart 1: *Increasing Percentage of Students' Speaking Ability*

The increasing in speaking ability in each cycle of action shown in the graph above is quite significant. There is 72.40% increase in the average score from the pre-test to the first cycle. In addition, there was also an increase in the average score of 82.53% from the first cycle to the second cycle. The findings in this study are supported by a study by Asha Rai (Rai, 2012), (Alemi, 2011) which concludes that the use of each literary genre in learning English has a positive contribution, including stimulating students' imaginations so that it can develop, motivate and encourage the language acquisition of the learner subject. While related to the use of the suggestopedia method in learning English, it is supported by studies in several studies, including the research of (Pali & Rando, 2020), (Galti, 2017), (Kurniawan, Rio, 2019), (Suprpto & Kurniawan, 2020), (Zdikriah et al., 2018), (Waluyo et al., 2018), (D, Merlin, 2018), (Murfita & Novita, 2020). These studies conclude that the suggestopedia method is one of the effective and significant methods in teach language skills specifically in teaching English for both foreign language learners and second language learners. The application of this method can optimize one's English skills.

## CONCLUSION

The distribution of the data that has been generated and analyzed in this study resulted in the conclusion that the integration of literary media of Ngugi wa Thiong'O's *Petals of Blood* and its use in the suggestopedia method based on Sasando traditional music can answer the problems in this study. It effectively stimulates the speaking skills of students in Elementary School Teacher Education - Flores University. This can be seen from the increasing in students' speaking scores on the speaking component, which includes accuracy, fluency, understanding and content. Thus, it can be recommended that literary works and the suggestopedia method can be used as a lecturer's creative effort to stimulate students' speaking skills in learning English. In addition, it is recommended to prospective teachers, educational observers and in general academics who take part in the world of

education in order to be able to use literary media with different genres and integrate them in the Suggestopedia method on learning English to create a pleasant learning environment that will affect the mastery of language skills.

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